

**CALFED Policy Group Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 1997**

Summary of Meeting and Actions

Review of Schedule

An overview of the schedule reconfirmed that the Record of Decision is anticipated to be signed in November 1998. Concerns have been formally expressed by environmental stakeholders that more time is necessary for adequate review. Urban and agricultural stakeholders believe that CALFED should maintain the current Program schedule.

Approvals and Decision Making Process in Phase II

Issues will be discussed at various forums and the kind of issue will determine the type and form of resolution. Some decisions may be in the form of verbal approval at meetings and others may require documents with signatures from all the agencies, as was done for conclusion of Phase I.

- **Issues with technical implications will be discussed by agencies at a technical level and then brought to the management team for further discussion or decision.**

Purpose and Need Statement

The Purpose and Need Statement was generally approved by the CALFED Management Team at the January meeting and agencies submitted additional comments which were incorporated into the final version. The following concerns were raised at the meeting and will also be incorporated into the final version. The third bullet on page 2 will be revised to address a Fish and Wildlife Service concern that interrelated and interdependent effects are not only applicable to ESA and hence the statement regarding authorities should be general and not specific. Also, the 3rd sentence in the Water Quality section on page 6 will be changed to address EPA concerns related to drinking water.

- **The Purpose and Need Statement was unanimously approved by the Policy Group with the understanding that the two concerns listed above will be incorporated into the final version.**

Ecosystem Restoration

Ecosystem Roundtable

Cindy Darling reported on activities of the Roundtable and discussed changes to the implementation strategy .

The concept of a contingency fund was discussed and several principles were outlined. Questions were raised concerning implementation of certain projects before the EIR/EIS is completed. Rick Breitenbach stated that a list of criteria to be applied for early implementation has been developed with NEPA/CEQA in consideration. Mary Scoonover added that any projects selected should not pre-determine the long term program (solution) and will be subject to the environmental compliance process.

- **Final approvals of projects recommended by the Ecosystem Roundtable will be made by the CALFED Policy Group.**
- **The list of projects to be funded will be presented to CALFED in June or July.**
- **A procedure for expenditure accountability of a contingency fund will be developed.**

Restoration Strategy Resulting from Flood

Lester used the Cosumnes River example to illustrate the kind of opportunities that exist for flood protection with creation of a habitat reserve area or linkage with a habitat corridor.

The Army Corps of Engineers short term objective includes preparing Sacramento and San Joaquin for the next flood season and will focus on nonstructural options. For the long term, the Corps is obtaining funding to conduct a systemwide analysis on flood control which will examine a broad spectrum on how to provide flood protection. It was stated that CALFED could play an important role in coordinating efforts, and facilitating funding.

Expiration of the Accord in December

Tom Hagler has drafted a short memo from the federal perspective regarding implications of the expiration of the December Accord.

- **CALFED agencies should give comments on the draft memorandum to Tom before March 7.**

Fish Screen Policies

Wayne White distributed a process paper on fish screen criteria. He indicated that screens for 250 cfs or less may not have a difference in criteria from different agencies. Issues regarding types of assurances need to be defined with FWS, DFG and NMFS. Wayne discussed an option of utilizing a programmatic HCP process to get a "no surprises" assurances for fish screens. Issues such as the appropriate permit holder would need to be addressed.

- **Comments should be given to Wayne before the next Management Team meeting.**

Watershed Management Policy

CALFED agreed the concept presented by Patrick Wright to bring all the players together, the agencies and local groups, should be pursued. This will assist in coordinating CALFED efforts with local groups and provide a forum for CALFED proposals. Patrick Wright will follow up on this effort.

New Federal Agencies

it is anticipated that the Corps and NRCS will be Federal co-leads and the role of the other four agencies is still being defined. ClubFED is developing an MOU defining relationships within and responsibilities of the individual Federal members. The final MOU should be completed within the next several weeks.

Interim South Delta Program

The final EIR is expected to be completed by January 1998.

American River Water Resources Investigation

The final document for the American River Water Resources Investigation will be completed in two to three weeks. It endorses the common elements and is independent of Corps flood control efforts.

Next Meeting

The next Policy Group meeting is scheduled for May 13 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The next Management Team meeting will be on March 17 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.